

Application Serial No. 10/532,952
Reply to office action of November 25, 2008

PATENT
Docket: CU-4170

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are pending before this amendment. By the present amendment, claims 1, 4-8 and 11-14 are amended. No new matter has been added.

In the office action (page 2), claim 5 stands objected to as containing an informality. In response, the applicants have amended claim 5 in accordance with the examiner's suggestion. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the office action (page 2), claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In response, the applicants have amended claims 13 and 14 to be directed to --a computer-readable storage medium--. As amended, claims 13 and 14 are now drawn to statutory subject matter. It is understood that the computer program product would be **stored** on a --computer-readable storage medium-- so as to impart functionality to the computer. A --computer-readable storage medium-- describes a computer-readable medium upon which a computer program product and limits the computer-readable medium to **storage medium**, e.g., CD-ROM, optical disk, RAM, ROM, etc. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection.

In the office action (page 3), claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0107771 (Shibata) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,807,388 (Kojima). The "et al." suffix is omitted in a reference name.

The applicants respectfully **disagree**.

The outstanding feature of the present invention is that the server is separated from an output device and has a database for storing the information received from the output device in association with both the unique information and the device identification information, even after the output device outputs information onto media.

In order to clarify this novel feature of the present invention, claims 1, 4-8 and 11-14 have been amended to recite that the server is --separated from-- an output device and that "the server has database which stores the unique information, the output information and the device identification information in association with each other, even

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after the output device outputs information onto media". (specification [0076] and [0078]).

According to claims 1, 4-8 and 11-14 as amended, specific evidence as to who outputted information on which output device is preserved in the server, which is separated from the output device, even after the output device outputs information onto media. Therefore, an unauthorized output can be deterred and, if by any chance an unauthorized activity is committed, the activity can be efficiently identified, even after the output device outputs information onto media.

In the office action, claims 1-14 stand rejected as being anticipated by Shibata and Kojima. However, Shibata fails to teach or suggest that the server has a database which stores the unique information, the output information and the device identification information in association with each other, even after the output device outputs information onto media. In Shibata, PC2 includes the storage unit 207 for storing the image data having the userID embedded therein that is received from MFP. However, Shibata does not disclose that storage unit 207 stores the image data having the user ID embedded, **even after MFP prints the image data**. According to the techniques of Shibata, an unauthorized activity cannot be identified after the MFP prints the image data. As to the Kojima reference, nothing in Kojima teaches the deficiencies of the Shibata reference.

Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that the neither Shibata nor Kojima, whether considered individually or in combination, teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 1-14 since none of the cited prior art references teach the storing of ID information, output information and output information of the output device **--even after the output device outputs information--**. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicit an indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 1-14.

For the reasons set forth above, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-14, pending in this application, are in condition for allowance over the cited references. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicit an indication of allowable subject matter.


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This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the office action. Should the examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

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